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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/492,369 01/27/00 BLAHA

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EXAMINER

MMC2/0411

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55 E. Monroe Street
Suite 2940
Chicago IL 60603

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833
DATE MAILED:

04/11/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/492,369

Applicant(s)

BLAHA, WILLIAM E.

Examiner

Shanetta D. Ore

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The objection is withdrawn regarding the drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (5,735,706) in view of Hower et al (5,860,829).

Regarding claim 1, Ito discloses a wire connector joining two or more incoming wires (1,2), a housing (10), wall (21), cavity (11,12), conductive clip (15), and a clip having first and second retaining fingers (Fig 3B). Ito does not disclose a conductive extension in electrical engagement with the clip. Hower et al discloses a conductive extension. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the connector of Ito to include a conductive extension as taught by Hower et al to provide for an external electrical connection.

Regarding claim 2, Ito discloses a conductive clip having a plurality of tines (Fig 2).

Regarding claim 3, Ito discloses a two-part housing with base (10) and cap (24).

Regarding claim 4, Ito discloses a conductive clip with a plurality of finger forming a push-in connector (Fig 8).

Regarding claim 5, Hower et al discloses an extension blade-type (18).

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Regarding claim 6, Ito discloses the extension of wire is a pigtail (Fig 6).

Regarding claim 7, Ito discloses a method of connecting two or more wires to a common terminus with a push-in wire connector (Col. 5, line 37-42).

Regarding claim 8, Ito discloses a method of connecting two or more wires having common terminus with an insulation displacement connector (Col. 4, lines 62-67).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 1, 2001 have been fully considered moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

Relevant Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Santos, Endo et al and Escane all disclose a two-part housing.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanetta D. Ore whose telephone number is (703) 308-2854. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 - 4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

sdo
April 6, 2001

P. Bradley
Paula Bradley
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800